

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJ: PROSECUTOR CALLS FOR MAXIMUM PENALTY AGAINST 13 DEFENDANTS
IN COUP TRIAL

1. ON AUGUST 19 PROSECUTOR CONSTANTINE STAMATIS REQUESTED THAT THE COURT HEARING THE CASE AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS IN THE 1967 COUP TRIAL LEVY MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR HIGH TREASON AND INSURRECTION AGAINST THIRTEEN, CALLED FOR LESSER PUNISHMENT FOR OTHERS AND RECOMMENDED THAT TWO INDIVIDUALS BE FOUND NOT GUILTY. AMONG THE THIRTEEN ARE GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS, NICOLAOS MAKAREZOS, STYLIANOS PATTAKOS, GREGORY SPANDIDAKIS AND DIMITRIOS IOANNIDIS, WHO, IF FOUND GUILTY ON THESE COUNTS COULD FACE A DEATH SENTENCE UNDER ARTICLE 63 OF THE MILITARY PENAL CODE.

2. IN ITS FINAL SUMMARY, THE PROSECUTION CHARGED THAT THE PAPADOPOULOS REGIME HAD NOT BEEN A LEGITIMATE REVOLUTION AS THE DEFENDANTS CLAIMED, BUT INSTEAD HAD BEEN AN ILLEGITIMATE INSURRENCTION ENGINEERED BY A SMALL GROUP OF OFFICERS WHO HAD BROKEN THEIR OATH OF OFFICE. THE PROSECUTION EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS THIS PARTICULAR GROUP OF OFFICERS WHICH WAS ON TRIAL AND NOT THE ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE.

3. THE PROSECUTION'S REQUEST HAS STIMULATED CONSIDERABLE
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DISCUSSION AND SPECULATION REGARDING THE DEATH PENALTY.

IT IS UP TO THE COURT, OF COURSE, AS TO WHETHER IT
WILL ENDORSE IN FULL OR IN PART THE LARGE NUMBER
OF INDIVIDUALS CITED BY THE PROSECUTOR FOR THE
MAXIMUM PENALTY. THE RESULT SHOULD BE KNOWN, HOWEVER,
BY THE END OF THE WEEK WHEN THE COURT IS EXPECTED TO
CONCLUDE ITS DELIBERATIONS.
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